Steps to protect Handloom industry.

Q.—270. Sri B. T. KEMPA RAJ (Bangalore South--Scheduled Castes).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the measures taken by them to protect and safeguard the handloom weavers hitherto ;

(*b*) whether they contemplate granting any concessions to the handloom weavers in order to protect their industry from the competition of the mill goods ; and

(*c*) whether they intend to provide loans to handloom weavers ?

A.—Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA (Minister for Home and Industries).—

(*a*) In order to help the handloom weavers, Government sanctioned the formation of the Mysore Provincial Cotton Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society and granted various facilities to the Society, such as an interestfree loan of Rs. 3½ lakhs for its working capital for a period of three years. The staff working in the Textile Section of the Department of Industries and Commerce and also some staff from the Co-operative Department, were transferred to the Society, Government meeting the entire establishment charges during the initial years. The Government Dye House, Bangalore, was also placed at the disposal of the Society. The Society organised 114 Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies in important Weaving Centres to arrange sale of yarn to the weavers. Later on, the Society took up also the production work and marketing of fabrics produced and established 30 Production Centres, and Emporia at Bangalore and Mysore.

In order to afford assistance in introducing improved appliances and attractive designs, the Industries and Commerce Department has started a Hand-loom Research and Designing Centre with a grant-in-aid from the Central Government.

(*b*) Government of India have set up a Textile Enquiry Committee to study the problems relating to the different sectors of the hand-loom industry and so evolve balanced economy under which all the different sectors of the industry could survive side by side without unhealthy competition. As a first step in this direction the Government of India have reserved 40 per cent of the production of dhoties to the hand-loom industry.

In order to finance the hand-loom development schemes, the Government of India have levied a cess on Mill cloth and out of the proceeds of this cess, Mysore has been allotted Rs. 7,60,900 in addition to Rs. 2,52,655 for the Bellary District. Various development schemes to be financed out of these grants have been sent to the Government of India. Some of these have already been approved by them and others are under consideration.

(*c*) The Schemes sent to the Government of India for financial assistance from the Mill Cess Fund include one for grant of loans to hand-loom weavers to the extent of Rs. 3,70,000.

Sri B. T. KEMPA RAJ.—Will any help be given to silk hand-loom weavers ?

Mr. SPEAKER.—Three days ago, I think, a similar question was put and answered.

*Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I answered in greater detail as to what the Government proposed doing even with regard to silk hand-loom weavers.

Sri B.T. KEMPA RAJ.—Even taking all precautions, has it come to the notice of the Government that the conditions of the weavers are becoming worse ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I cannot say it is becoming worse. It is bad enough. It is an all-India problem.

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಎಂ. ಶೀನಪ್ಪ.—ರೇಷ್ಮೆ ಕೈಮಗ್ಗದವರಿಗೂ, ನೂಲು ಕೈಮಗ್ಗದವರಿಗೆ ಕೊಡುವ ಹಾಗೆ ಸಾಲಕೊಡುವುದನ್ನು ಯೋಚಿಸುತ್ತೀರಾ ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಸಿದ್ದವೀರಪ್ಪ.--ಅಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿ; Hand-loom weavers ಜೊತೆಗೆ Silk weavers ನಹ ಸೇರಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

Sri K. LAKKAPPA.—In the answer to the question it is stated that a Hand-loom Research and Designing Centre has been started. Where is it started ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—Here, in Bangalore.

Sri K. LAKKAPPA.—Since how long it is working ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I cannot say from what period. But the section is working.

Cauvery Paper Mills.

Q.—44. Sri U. M. MADAPPA (Chamarajanagar).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the labourers of Cauvery Paper Mills in Nanjangud have expressed dissatisfaction with their wages ;

(*b*) if so, the action taken by them or the Company in that behalf ?

A.—Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Minister for Law and Education).—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The labourers stayed away from work and the Management closed down the Mills. But, consequent upon the initiation of the Conciliation proceedings by the Department of Labour, an agreement between the parties was effected on 18th November 1953. The Labour Association agreed to postpone the question of *Satyagraha*, while the Management agreed to re-open the Mills with effect from 9th December 1953. Accordingly, the Management have since re-opened the Mills with effect from 9th December 1953 and have provided work to 65 workers out of the 144 thrown out. They have promised that the rest of the workers would be provided with work soon after power is given by the Electrical Department, as promised. The Labour Association has been appraised of the situation by the Management. This situation in the Mills is peaceful and normal at present.

Sri U. M. MADAPPA.—I have no supplementaries.

Sri M. LINGANNA.—May I know whether the factory is working now ?

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—Yes, that is my information.

Sri M. LINGANNA.—Are the Government aware that the factory is closed soon after it was re-opened on the date mentioned, *i.e.* on 9-12-53 ?

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—No.

Sri M. LINGANNA.—May I know whether the factory asked for permission of the Labour Department to reabsorb the other workers ?

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—I have given all the information that I had. The Management have since reopened the Mills and have provided work to 65 workers out of 144.

Sri M. LINGANNA.—Has there been any interim arrangement by the Labour Department with the Management about their maintenance ?

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—They have promised to take back all of them. There was nothing left with the Government to do at that time.

Sri M. LINGANNA.—At the time when the Labour Department also asked for the conciliation of the labour dispute, was there any promise or arrangement made by the Labour Department or the Management for giving them facilities till they are reabsorbed ?

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—I want notice.

Sri M. LINGANNA.—Is it not a fact that this particular factory is labouring under financial difficulties ?

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—I do not know.

Violation of provisions of Ordinance 5 of 1953 by the Management of T. R. Mills.

Q.—82. Sri D. VENKATESH (Gandhinagar).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Management of the T. R. Mills have complied with the provisions of Ordinance 5 of 1953 in regard to :—

(i) the payment of compensation to laid off workers ;

(ii) the maintenance of muster roll of the laid off workers ;

(*b*) the action they propose to take with regard to violation of these provisions by the said Management ?